



## **Texas Department of Insurance**

### **Division of Workers' Compensation**

Medical Fee Dispute Resolution, MS-48

7551 Metro Center Drive, Suite 100 • Austin, Texas 78744-1645

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## **MEDICAL FEE DISPUTE RESOLUTION FINDINGS AND DECISION**

### **GENERAL INFORMATION**

#### **Requestor Name and Address**

VISTA MEDICAL CENTER HOSPITAL  
4301 VISTA RD  
PASADENA TX 77504

DWC Claim #:

Injured Employee:

Date of Injury:

Employer Name:

Insurance Carrier #:

#### **Respondent Name**

PACIFIC EMPLOYERS INSURANCE CO

#### **Carrier's Austin Representative Box**

Box Number 15

#### **MFDR Tracking Number**

M4-08-3777-01 (previously M4-04-4940-01 &  
M5-04-1499-01)

#### **MFDR Date Received**

JANUARY 2, 2004

### **REQUESTOR'S POSITION SUMMARY**

**Requestor's Position Summary:** "Vista Medical Center Hospital charges the above referenced services at a fair and reasonable rate. Specifically, these rates are based upon a comparison of charges to other Carriers and the amount of reimbursement received for these same or similar services. The amount of reimbursement deemed to be fair and reasonable by Vista Medical Center Hospital is at a minimum of 70% of billed charges. This is supported by a managed care contract with 'Focus'. **This contract with Vista Healthcare, Inc. and Focus was in effect at the time the services were rendered in this case and reimbursement was provided to Vista at 70% pursuant to that contract for other claimants from other carriers.**"

**Amount in Dispute:** \$20,639.27

### **RESPONDENT'S POSITION SUMMARY**

**Respondent's Position Summary:** "...This claim was previously reviewed on 2/14/03 (Billed amount at that time was \$47,627.10) with reductions listed in the Itemized Analysis worksheet. The re-billed amount was \$49,152.10; it appears that the late charges included a corrected charge for the McConnell arm support in the amount of \$1750.00 instead of \$245.00. This claim was resubmitted with request for reconsideration with request for reconsideration with request being based on TWCC requirements as understood by the facility. There was no additional documentation submitted to support the charges that were previously disallowed. The charges were re-reviewed with Dr. Kenneth Bayles/Orthopedic Surgeon who did not recommend any changes to the previous audit as he felt that many of the previous fees are not medically necessary, some items are re-usable, many excessive charges and that there was no documentation supplied to support changing the previous review. In addition, would not recommended reimbursement for the McConnell arm support in the amount of \$1750.00 as the charge appears very excessive..."

**Response Submitted by:** Intracorp, 4100 International Parkway, Ste. 1010, Carrollton, TX 75007

### **SUMMARY OF FINDINGS**

Dates of Service	Disputed Services	Amount In Dispute	Amount Due
January 15, 2003	Outpatient Hospital Services	\$20,639.27	\$0.00

## ***FINDINGS AND DECISION***

This medical fee dispute is decided pursuant to Texas Labor Code §413.031 and all applicable, adopted rules of the Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers' Compensation.

### **Background**

1. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307 sets out the procedures for resolving medical fee disputes.
2. 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1, effective May 16, 2002, 27 *Texas Register* 4047, requires that "Reimbursement for services not identified in an established fee guideline shall be reimbursed at fair and reasonable rates as described in the Texas Workers' Compensation Act, §413.011 until such period that specific fee guidelines are established by the commission."
3. Texas Labor Code §413.011(d) requires that fee guidelines must be fair and reasonable and designed to ensure the quality of medical care and to achieve effective medical cost control. The guidelines may not provide for payment of a fee in excess of the fee charged for similar treatment of an injured individual of an equivalent standard of living and paid by that individual or by someone acting on that individual's behalf. It further requires that the Division consider the increased security of payment afforded by the Act in establishing the fee guidelines.
4. The services in dispute were reduced/denied by the respondent with the following reason codes:
  - M – Reduced to fair and reasonable.
  - U – Unnecessary Medical Treatment Guidelines.
  - N – Not Documented
  - D – Duplicate charge
  - O – Denial after reconsideration

### **Findings**

1. The carrier denied services using the denial code U - "Unnecessary medical treatment guidelines." In accordance with Texas Administrative Code Section 133.301(a), which states in part, "The insurance carrier shall not retrospectively review the medical necessity of a medical bill for treatment(s) and/or service(s) for which the health care provider has obtained preauthorization under Chapter 134..." The health care provider submitted a copy of the preauthorization approval number n4VG3WCB-0004. Intracorp also submitted notes showing that the requestor contracted Intracorp to extend the end date of the preauthorization approval to January 15, 2003, which was when the surgery was to be performed. The above denial reason is not supported. The disputed services will therefore be reviewed for payment in accordance with applicable Division rules and fee guidelines.
2. The carrier denied disputed services with denial code N - "Not documented." Review of the submitted documentation finds that the requestor did not submit copies of any medical records for review. No documentation was found to support the services as billed. The carrier's denial code is therefore supported and reimbursement is not recommended.
- 3.
4. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(g)(3)(B), effective January 1, 2003, 27 *Texas Register* 12282, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 1, 2003, requires the requestor to send additional documentation relevant to the fee dispute including "a copy of any pertinent medical records." Review of the submitted documentation finds that the requestor has not provided copies of all medical records pertinent to the services in dispute or other pertinent medical records sufficient to support the services in dispute. The Division concludes that the requestor has not met the requirements of §133.307(g)(3)(B).
5. 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307(g)(3)(D), effective January 1, 2003, 27 *Texas Register* 12282, applicable to disputes filed on or after January 1, 2003, requires the requestor to provide "documentation that discusses, demonstrates, and justifies that the payment amount being sought is a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement." Review of the submitted documentation finds that:
  - The requestor's position statement asserts that "Vista Medical Center Hospital charges the above-referenced services at a fair and reasonable rate. Specifically, these rates are based upon a comparison of charges to other Carriers and the amount of reimbursement received for these same or similar services."
  - The requestor did not provide documentation to demonstrate how it determined its usual and customary charges for the disputed services.
  - Documentation of the comparison of charges to other carriers was not presented for review.
  - Documentation of the amount of reimbursement received for these same or similar services was not presented for review.

- In the alternative, the requestor asks to be reimbursed a minimum of 70% of billed charges, in support of which the requestor states that “The amount of reimbursement deemed to be fair and reasonable by Vista Medical Center Hospital is at a minimum of 70% of billed charges. This is supported by a managed care contract with ‘Focus’...This managed care contract supports Vista Medical Center Hospital’s argument that the usual and customary charges are fair and reasonable and at the very minimum, 70% of the usual and customary charges is fair and reasonable...the managed care contract shows numerous Insurance Carrier’s willingness to provide 70% reimbursement for outpatient medical services.”
- The requestor has provided select exhibit pages from the alleged managed care contract referenced above; however, a copy of the contract referenced in the position statement was not presented for review with this dispute.
- Review of the exhibit pages submitted by the requestor finds a schedule of charges, labeled exhibit “A”, dated 04/23/92, which states that “OUTPATIENT SERVICES: 101/401 PAY 70% OF BILLED CHARGES.”
- The requestor submitted a letter of clarification dated July 30, 1992 indicating a change in reimbursement to the above referenced contract, stating in part that “services rendered to eligible Beneficiaries will be considered at 80% of the usual and reasonable charge which is equal to the lesser of the actual charges billed by HCP; OR the eightieth (80th) percentile for charges for such services as set forth in the current Medical Data Research Database.”
- The requestor submitted a fee schedule page, labeled exhibit A, dated effective August 1, 1992 which states, in part, that the provider shall receive “an amount equal to eighty percent (80%) of the Usual and Reasonable Charge for those Covered Services. For all purposes hereunder, the Usual and Reasonable Charge for such services shall be equal to the lesser of: (i) the actual charges billed by HCP for such services; or (ii) the eightieth (80th) percentile for charges for such services as set forth in the current Medical Data Research database.”
- No data or information was submitted from the Medical Data Research database to support the requested reimbursement.
- No documentation was presented by the requestor to support that the referenced contract was in effect at the time of the disputed services.
- The requestor’s position statement further asserts that “amounts paid to healthcare providers by third party payers are relevant to determining fair and reasonable workers’ compensation reimbursement. Further, TWCC stated specifically that managed care contracts are fulfill the requirements of Texas Labor Code Section 413.011 as they are ‘relevant to what fair and reasonable reimbursement is,’ they are relevant to achieving cost control,’ they are relevant to ensuring access to quality care,’ and they are ‘highly reliable.’ See 22 Tex. Reg. 6272. Finally, managed care contracts were determined by the TWCC to be the best indication of a market price voluntarily negotiated for medical services.”
- While managed care contracts are relevant to determining a fair and reasonable reimbursement, the Division has previously found that a reimbursement methodology based upon payment of a percentage of a hospital’s billed charges does not produce an acceptable payment amount. This methodology was considered and rejected by the Division in the adoption preamble to the Division’s former *Acute Care Inpatient Hospital Fee Guideline*, which states at 22 *Texas Register* 6276 that:  

“A discount from billed charges was another method of reimbursement which was considered. Again, this method was found unacceptable because it leaves the ultimate reimbursement in the control of the hospital, thus defeating the statutory objective of effective cost control and the statutory standard not to pay more than for similar treatment of an injured individual of an equivalent standard of living. It also provides no incentive to contain medical costs, would be administratively burdensome for the Commission and system participants, and would require additional Commission resources.”

Therefore, a reimbursement amount that is calculated based upon a percentage of a hospital’s billed charges cannot be favorably considered when no other data or documentation was submitted to support that the payment amount being sought is a fair and reasonable reimbursement for the services in dispute.
- The requestor did not submit documentation to support that payment of the amount sought is a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement for the services in this dispute.
- The requestor did not support that the requested alternative reimbursement methodology would satisfy the requirements of 28 Texas Administrative Code §134.1.

The request for additional reimbursement is not supported. Thorough review of the documentation submitted by the requestor finds that the requestor has not demonstrated or justified that payment of the amount sought would be a fair and reasonable rate of reimbursement for the services in dispute. Additional payment cannot be recommended.

### **Conclusion**

The Division would like to emphasize that individual medical fee dispute outcomes rely upon the evidence presented by the requestor and respondent during dispute resolution, and the thorough review and consideration of that evidence. After thorough review and consideration of all the evidence presented by the parties to this dispute, it is determined that the submitted documentation does not support the reimbursement amount sought by the requestor. The Division concludes that this dispute was not filed in the form and manner prescribed under Division rules at 28 Texas Administrative Code §133.307. The Division further concludes that the requestor failed to support its position that additional reimbursement is due. As a result, the amount ordered is \$0.00.

### ***ORDER***

Based upon the documentation submitted by the parties and in accordance with the provisions of Texas Labor Code §413.031, the Division has determined that the requestor is entitled to \$0.00 reimbursement for the services in dispute.

### **Authorized Signature**

_____	_____	March 15, 2013
Signature	Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Officer	Date

### ***YOUR RIGHT TO APPEAL***

Either party to this medical fee dispute may appeal this decision by requesting a contested case hearing. A completed **Request for a Medical Contested Case Hearing** (form **DWC045A**) must be received by the DWC Chief Clerk of Proceedings within **twenty** days of your receipt of this decision. A request for hearing should be sent to: Chief Clerk of Proceedings, Texas Department of Insurance, Division of Workers Compensation, P.O. Box 17787, Austin, Texas, 78744. The party seeking review of the MDR decision shall deliver a copy of the request for a hearing to all other parties involved in the dispute at the same time the request is filed with the Division. **Please include a copy of the *Medical Fee Dispute Resolution Findings and Decision* together with any other required information specified in 28 Texas Administrative Code §148.3(c), including a **certificate of service demonstrating that the request has been sent to the other party.****

**Si prefiere hablar con una persona en español acerca de ésta correspondencia, favor de llamar a 512-804-4812.**